

## Population Change in Chinena Village

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# Population Change in Chinena Village

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**Key words:** Population Change, Migration, Ethnic Group, Zambia

## 1 Introduction

This paper aims to estimate the population change on a micro level. Population changes are generally aggregated and analyzed at Provincial and District levels, based on Census results. This paper seeks to estimate population changes of a village in Central Province using data collected during two field studies conducted in August 1992 and August 1993 respectively. The population of the village studied has been growing rapidly in recent years. Despite high rates of natural increase, population growth rates in rural areas of Zambia were not so high as national averages in the 1960s and 1970s. This was caused by massive rural-urban migration after independence. After the mid-1970s living standards in urban areas declined continuously and considerably due to severe economic crisis and structural adjustment programmes. Narrowing income gaps between urban and rural areas after the mid-1970s slowed down rural-urban migration. In some rural areas recently, population were increasing not only because of natural increase, but also increased in-migration. The village we studied is one of such rural areas.

## 2 Data collection

In August 1992 we interviewed 82 households of Chinena village using a questionnaire and collected data on household members such as their place and year of birth, year when they came to the village and place from where they migrated. Total number of households in the village at the time was estimated to be 90. In August next year we interviewed 102 households out of a total of 108 households in the village. Accordingly the number of households of the village increased 20 percent in one year.

### 3 Chinena Village and migration

Chinena village was established in the mid-1970s. Fig. 1 shows the distribution of years when household heads reported to have come to the village. Most of the household heads were born outside the village. Reliability of the years reported depends on how well the respondents remember the years and the number of existent household heads coming in each year represent a fraction of a total of immigrants in the year. However, Fig. 1 gives a rough pattern of past in-migration to the village. Most of the household heads living in the village at the time of the survey in 1993 reported to have come to the village after 1977.

Several factors have affected migration of people to Chinena village. The village is situated close to the tarmac road connecting Lusaka and Kabwe town. Marketed production of vegetables in the village benefited from this location of the village. Because the village is close to the tarmac road it is easy to transport the produce with ox-carts to the road. Then the produce can either be sold by road or transported to markets in Lusaka and towns in the Copperbelt. Prosperous farming of vegetables in the village in recent years contributed to an acceleration of in-migration of people to the village.

The village has some wetlands (dambo) where vegetables were produced in dry season. Dambo agriculture is one of the factors enhancing to in-migration of people to the village because it makes farming more resistant against the background of persistent drought in this part of Zambia. This factor might have been dominant in the years of our field studies because 1991/92 season was that of a severe drought. Many of the respondents who migrated to the village between August 1992 and August

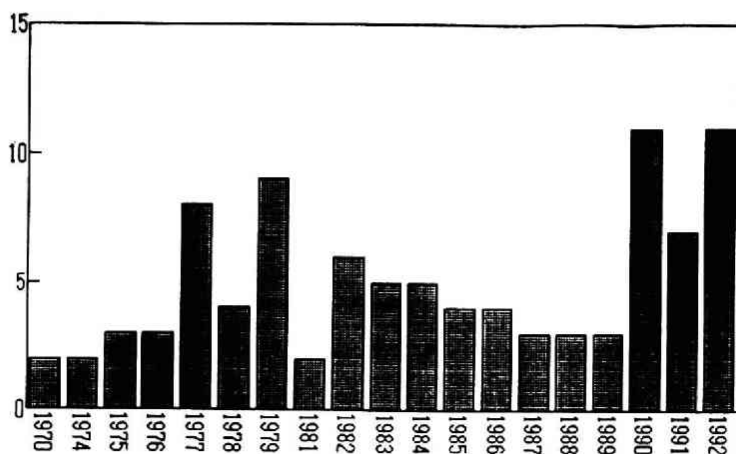


Fig. 1 Distribution of years when household heads came to Chinena Village.

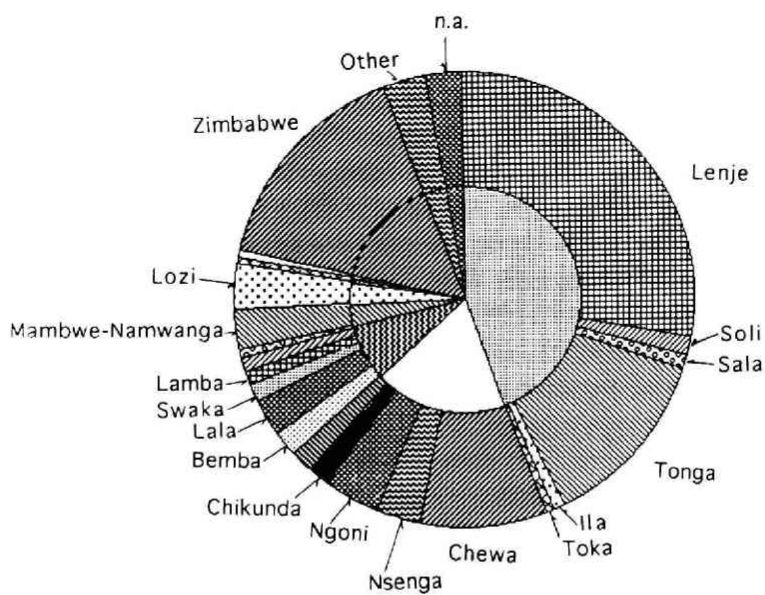


Fig. 2 Ethnic groups of household heads (1993).

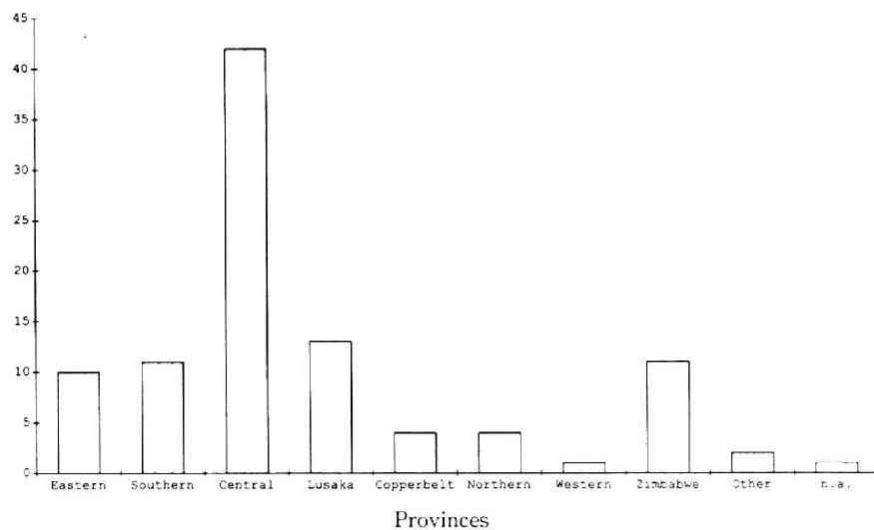


Fig. 3 Birth places of household heads (1993).

1993 stated that the wet soils of the village were one of the factors which attracted them to the village.

There is one unique factor which encourages migration to the village. Although the village is located in Lenjeland and the headman is a Lenje, he has accepted migrants of different ethnic origins other than Lenje. Accordingly, the village contains a variety of ethnic groups. Fig. 2 shows the distribution of ethnic groups of the household heads. Although Lenje was the largest group among household heads, there lived in the village a series of different ethnic groups. As is observed in Fig. 3, birth places of the household heads cover all the provinces of Zambia except North-Western and Luapula Provinces.

#### 4 Population increase between 1992 and 1993

Number of households in the village increased from 90 to 108 between August 1992 and August 1993. During the one year 13 households migrated into the village and 8 households were established as sons became independent from their fathers, while 3 households migrated from the village or disappeared because of the death of the household heads.

We estimated the annual population growth rate of the village between 1992 and 1993. Those households interviewed both in 1992 and 1993 amounted to 77, while 8 households in 1992 and another 8 households in 1993 were not interviewed respectively. As is observed in Table 1, population of the households interviewed both in 1992 and 1993 increased from 590 in August 1992 to 621 in August next year at an annual growth rate of 5.3 percent. If we assume that those households interviewed either in 1992 only or 1993 only also increased at the same rate of 5.3 percent per year, the population of

Table 1 Population Change in Chinena village

	population in 1992	population in 1993	social increase	natural increase	other increase***
A	590	621	+15	+14	+2
B	32	(33 or 34)	+1	0 or +1	
C	(46 or 47)	49	+1 or +2	+1	
D	0	70	+67	+3	
Total	668/9	773/4	+84/5	+18/9	

\* A=Households interviewed both in 1992 and 1993; B=households interviewed in 1992 but not in 1993; C=households interviewed in 1993 but not in 1992; D=households that came in the village after August 1992

\*\* Figures in parentheses are estimates.

\*\*\* Increase not identified whether social or natural

these households is estimated to have grown from 78 or 79 to 82 or 83 during the year. The population of those households that came into the village between August 1992 and August 1993 stood at 70 in August 1993. Accordingly, it can be estimated that the total population of the village increased from 668 or 669 in August 1992 to 773 or 774 in August 1993. Annual growth rate of the village population is thus estimated to be as high as 15 to 16 percent.

Large part of the population increase of the village between 1992 and 1993 was explained by social increase. While the rate of natural increase was around 2.8 percent a year, the rate of social increase was as high as 10.9 percent.

The rate of social increase in 1992/93 is likely to have been exceptionally high compared to those in the past. As Fig. 1 suggests, flows of in-migration to the village might have been larger in the past three years than in the previous years. One of the factors behind this high rate of in-migration in 1992/93 might be a drought in 1991/92 rainy season that was alleged to be most severe in the past half century. The amount of rainfall in Kabwe in the 1991/92 season was 559 millimeters, only 65 percent of that in the average season. This drought situation might have encouraged farmers in surrounding areas to seek land more resistant to drought.

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